

# CAREFUL STUDY WILL BE NEEDED BEFORE ACTION

## Present Commissioner May Be Made Coordinator of Several Branches

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WASHINGTON, May 20.—Administration officers who have studied the problem of transferring the prohibition unit from the Treasury to the Justice Department are of the opinion that the enforcement and prosecution machineries should be under separate heads working in close cooperation.

They take the view that the prosecution end, now under the direction of Assistant Attorney General Mabel Walker Willebrandt, is a task of such importance and magnitude that the officer in charge would be unable to spare the time for directing the strictly enforcement part of the job.

Some Congressional leaders concur in the view of these officials that the measurement of the qualifications of the enforcement director should be ability as an organizer and administrator rather than as a lawyer or prosecutor, and that the proper performance of the task would absorb the full attention of an individual.

Preliminary surveys of the prohibition enforcement field have disclosed that the problem of making the transfer which President Hoover announced in his inaugural address, is an exceedingly intricate one requiring the most careful study before legislative recommendations to bring it about are laid before Congress.

There are many ramifications of the enforcement problem, with some features of the work spreading to three different departments and to several divisions of the Treasury as well. A complete transfer of the whole machinery is regarded as out of the question and it is recognized that after the necessary legislation has been put into operation close cooperation will have to be maintained between the several

departments of the government which still will be concerned.

There is a suggestion that James M. Doran, the prohibition commissioner, who is now engaged on a study of the problem, may be made the coordinator with general supervision in the several departments.

One important division of enforcement is the customs service, which obviously cannot be transferred into the justice department since its primary function is that of collecting customs taxes and preventing smuggling and frauds under the tariff acts.

The Coast Guard, which also has become an important arm of prohibition enforcement, works closely with the customs service. Similarly, enforcement finds its way into the labor department through the immigration service, as the agents on the borders, in addition to their primary duties, assist in detecting and preventing smuggling of intoxicants as well as other contraband.

Another division of enforcement which has a vital bearing on the illicit liquor traffic is that dealing with alcohol and other permits under the prohibition act. This is regarded as a strictly business transaction which well might be placed under the Department of Commerce.

Internal revenue agents also have their proper place in the enforcement machinery, but like the customs agents, they have a prior duty—that of enforcing the internal revenue laws generally.

From time to time since the enactment of prohibition there have been suggestions for the organization of border patrols, combing customs, immigration, internal in revenue and coast guard agents, and this question will be given careful consideration while plans for the transfer of the dry unit are being worked out.

## Three Dry Agents Are Transferred

### Expert Operatives Sent to Ohio—Another Dropped from Service

Three of the most experienced operatives in the New Jersey dry unit have been transferred to Ohio and a fourth has been dropped from the service. The three are James F. Tierney, Charles Cariffe and Richard E. Lewis. The man dropped is Joseph E. Wickes.

Wickes, known for years as one of the cleverest operatives on the force, was a right-hand man of Colonel Arthur J. Hanlon, who preceded Captain Ross as administrator. He failed to pass the Civil Service examination, in spite of all his under-cover experience. He was transferred to Western New York recently. He was back this week, but not as a dry agent.

Tierney, Cariffe and Lewis were transferred to Ohio. This was not due to any dissatisfaction with their work, it was said, but because they were becoming too well known in New Jersey for under-cover activities.

Tierney has already left for Ohio. Lewis has asked for a leave of absence and will report on its completion to the Ohio unit. Cariffe is leaving soon for that state.

## Drug Suspect Insists Agent Attacked Him

Charges that a Federal narcotic agent had knocked two teeth from the mouth of a defendant in a case heard by Federal Judge Fake yesterday enlivened the trial of three men accused of sale and possession of narcotics. The trio are Cyril Deady, Paul Nigre and Thomas McGuinness, all of Hoboken.

Nigre charged one of the agents with knocking his teeth loose. This the agent denied, but said he landed a wallop to the chin of Deady, when Deady reached for a bottle. The altercation occurred during the arrest of the men. Deady is defended by I. F. Goldenhorn. Nigre and McGuinness are represented by Senator Alexander Simpson of Jersey City. The case is expected to go to the jury today.